

Despot Clutch Grips Venezuela, Says Refugee

Eight Years a Prisoner Under Ball and Chain, Dr. Leon Paints Grim Picture of Nation's Plight

Harding Helped Free Him

Ex-Official Declares Plans Are Now Forming for Overthrow of President Gomez

For more than ten years prior to 1914 Dr. Carlos Leon was one of the foremost lawyers of Venezuela. A jurist of marked ability and learning and a member of a good family, he rose rapidly. First under former President Cipriano Castro, then under President Juan Vicente Gomez he held at different times the offices of justice of the Federal Court, Minister of Public Instruction, Governor of a Federal district and representative to the Hague tribunal.

To-day Dr. Leon is in New York after languishing for eight years in La Rotunda, the Caracas prison, one of numerous prisoners, of whom seventy died of starvation, according to Dr. Leon, during the time that he passed in jail.

Gives Thanks to Harding

At the Hotel Endicott yesterday the Venezuelan exile was inclined to credit his deliverance from a living death and that of such others as were spared to the intervention of President Harding.

In his wallet Dr. Leon carries a copy of a letter written to President Harding by two hundred women in Caracas imploring the Chief Executive of the great sister republic to bring about the liberation of the political prisoners, deprived of food and light and suffering horrible cruelties. Four months after that letter was written Dr. Leon was a free man, but the official orders were that his liberty was contingent on his leaving the country. He left for New York by way of Colon, leaving his wife in Costa Rica.

Dr. Leon is eloquent in his denunciation of what he terms the "barbarous regime" now in power in Venezuela.

"But I feel that my fellow countrymen and I have not suffered in vain," he said, "for Venezuela is in a state of agitation, and out of the present darkness will develop a country of civilization and progress."

Trials Omitted, He Says

Dr. Leon said that due process of law is a common of Venezuela. Under the present autocracy, he said, he had been governor of the Federal district and I set about perfecting the criminal organization. Differences arose in the cabinet members of the cabinet and I decided to retire from all participation in politics and went to Porto Rico, where I bought a sugar plantation, returning a month later to Caracas. One day several soldiers came and told me to get up at once. I was taken to La Rotunda. I made protestations and assertions of a right to be heard were scorned. Without any court proceeding I was thrust into a dungeon and an iron ball weighing fifty pounds was fastened to my ankle. Then, in June, 1914, La Rotunda was filled with other men of good family and standing in Venezuela. Those who were able to pay for food received just enough to live, while others who depended for subsistence on the government starved. During the eight years I was prisoner seventy such prisoners starved to death.

"After I had been confined for a year a friend of mine intended to obtain some sort of trial on whatever charge they might prefer. But my friend was informed that I, having been in prison a year, was regarded as an enemy of the government. Before that I was held merely on suspicion. But as an enemy of the government I continued for seven years to exist in the dark, dirty dungeon. Then, very secretly, two hundred society ladies of Caracas addressed a letter to President Harding begging his benevolent intervention in our behalf. Their plea was heeded and here I am."

Compares Gomez to Diaz

"President Juan Vicente Gomez is as much a dictator as General Porfirio Diaz ever was in Mexico," continued Dr. Leon. "Gomez has made his brother Vice-President of the country and has named his son as Second Vice-President,

with supervision over the army, with the title of inspector general. A son-in-law, Carlos Delmon, is in the United States negotiating for the sale of oil concessions in the state of Falcon. Those in power are getting rich from the sale of concessions.

"However, the people of Venezuela have about made up their minds to rid the country of the Gomez dynasty and an armed uprising is due to begin at any time. A directorate, some of its members in New York, have this work in charge. In view of this situation and its possible after effects investors in oil lands at this time may find the so-called concessions without value when the present regime in Venezuela is overthrown and their unlawful acts are repudiated. The fight is not against Gomez alone—it is against the system. We would gain nothing by replacing one tyrant with another. We propose to transform the whole political system and establish a republic of laws and liberty."

Ford Victor In Race Void As Unofficial

(Continued from page one)

added that it was against the rules for any one not a member of the crew to take the vessel's wheel, even for an instant.

The Secretary of the Navy retired to his seat and resumed his status as a passenger.

Ford Delayed at Start

Sail trimmers worked all night putting the Ford's suit of canvas to fit the required measurements. This change was demanded late on Friday after the official measurer had gone over the Ford's dimensions. Consequently, the Ford was still tied up at her dock at 9 o'clock this morning, while the United States steamship James K. Paulding, the official committee boat, started off the mark and indicated the starting line. The Blue nose was easing up the harbor under a light breeze, which was hardly a breeze at all, when the Ford first appeared in the stream.

From the Paulding, which was press boat as well as committee boat, it appeared that the Ford could not possibly make the mark by 10 o'clock, the official starting time. Also it was questionable whether it would be sound policy to start the race in the light air. It was no surprise to any one, when at a few minutes before 10, after hoisting the signal indicating that course number one was to be sailed, the Paulding broke out at her yard arm the black ball which announced a postponement of one-half hour at the start. She set the time for the start as 10:30.

The Paulding blew several blasts on her horn to call attention to the postponement. The schooner were now up on the line and headed in the general direction of the start. The Blue nose had come about and was sailing behind the line. The Ford came up the harbor, headed for the line and crossed it. At about this moment some genius hauled down the black ball and left the course signal flying alone.

Recall Signal Ignored

The Blue nose headed out to sea after the Ford, and the race was on. The committee held a hurried consultation and then broke out both ships' numbers from the yard, indicating the body that the schooner should return to the starting line and begin all over again. Neither skipper took the slightest notice of the signal. Attention was politely directed to them by several peremptory blasts of the Paulding's whistle.

The schooner continued on their way toward the mark, while the rest of the craft which were scattered over the harbor's surface heeled and skittered after them. The Paulding stood resolutely by the committee and remained anchored outside the starting line.

A passing powerboat of the coast guard service, on patrol duty for the race, was hailed from the bridge of the Paulding and directed to overhaul the schooner and request them to return to the mark and start according to the rules and regulations. The patrol boat sped away on its mission, while the schooner drew steadily further and further away from the line.

Blue nose Continues Race

From the bridge of the Paulding the powerboat was seen to approach the Blue nose. Then she veered away and crossed to the Ford, which was to the weather of the Canadian and about a thousand yards in the lead. The Blue nose stood steadily on her course.

The patrol boat exchanged messages with the Ford. She then turned sharp around and headed for the Paulding, which was now alone in her glory, anchored on the starting line and flouted by the universe. The schooner went right ahead, and the rest of the miscellaneous craft, including the cruiser fleet and the battleship Rochester, with Mrs. Danby, the wife of the

Big Pacific Liner Burning, 800 Miles Out



The City of Honolulu, listing heavily to port as it drifted at mercy of flame and wave. The picture was taken from one of the lifeboats, a short distance away. All the passengers and crew were saved

Calls Husband Profligate in Her Plea for \$3,000 Alimony

Mrs. Francis M. Sutton Asks Court to Require Bond for Payment of Yearly Sum Awarded With Separation; Accuses Former Manicurist

Mrs. Francis M. Sutton, of 170 East Seventeenth Street, Brooklyn, applied yesterday to Supreme Court Justice Fawcett, in Brooklyn, for an order compelling her husband, president of the exporting house at 17 Battery Place which bears his name, to file a bond to insure payment of the \$3,000 yearly alimony which was allowed her at the time of the separation decree which she obtained in 1914. Since that time Mrs. Sutton has been living at the Crescent Athletic Club and at Allenhurst, N. J.

Mrs. Sutton bases her application on the assertion that the exporter is leading a "reckless, extravagant, profligate and improper life with various women, consisting of manicurists, modistes and moving picture actresses" and that he is rapidly dissipating his estate.

"My husband is leading an irresponsible life at Allenhurst," she alleges. "He is dancing until the late hours of the night. He has given to one of these women, a Katherine Vanderpool, who was a manicurist at Asbury Park, a large amount of property, including about \$5,000 worth of the capital stock of the Francis M. Sutton Company, together with a number of Liberty bonds."

officials the only thing left was for the couple to catch up with the race. The Paulding lifted her anchor and started in pursuit. Hitting a twenty-five-foot clip, she headed the boats at the first buoy and accompanied them around the course to the finish line, standing off each race as it was made. She did not, however, stand off the finish, and so far as the official records are concerned the race has neither started nor finished. It was no race.

All Chinatown Hushed as War Of Tong Brews

Three Men Said To Be Marked for Death Following Trial of Tom Yee, Alleged Slayer of Ko Low

Efforts for Peace Fail

Many Police Patrol Streets Alert for Opening of the Threatened Clashes

Lee Yee Hong, of the Suey Hing Company, 15 Pell Street, successor to the murdered Ko Low, as state, but not national, president of the Hip Sing Tong, held close to his desk yesterday while a serious tong war was fermenting in Chinatown. Three men are said to be marked for death.

Charlie Gong, a devout Episcopalian and "Big Tong" man, a peacemaker in Chinatown squabbles, had failed, after weeks of effort, it was reported, to bring an understanding out of the petty quarrel that resulted in the death of Ko Low, who was shot while accompanying two white women from a restaurant, where he had entertained them.

In the store of the Soy Kee Company, 7 Mott Street, it was admitted by a man informed in tong affairs that testimony given before Judge Talley, in General Sessions in the trial of Tom Yee, held for the murder of Ko Low, had engendered hatred in certain circles and that serious trouble might break out in the colony at any time. The jury in the Tom Yee case was discharged yesterday and Tom was taken back to the Tombs. Judge Talley said to the jury:

"I know no more about this case than you do."

Marked Men Warned

The police officials at the Oak Street station, which is responsible for law and order in Chinatown, are alert. Two policemen were assigned last night to every forty feet of Chinatown sidewalk. Men believed to be marked for death had been warned and were keeping close to their homes.

Ko Low held both the national and the state presidency of the Hip Sing Tong, an organization of merchants. There are four tongs most active in

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New York Chinatown. They are the Big Tong, one of the biggest religious, moral and benevolent organizations in the world. It is non-sectarian, international and interdenominational and has members of every race and creed. Next probably in importance is the On Leong Tong, a sort of chamber of commerce. The Lin Sing Tong, a social organization that has become popular and active recently, also figures now in tong affairs. Besides these there is the Four Brothers, a family affair, made up of the descendants of four brothers who met 5,000 years ago and formed the interfamily organization.

Good and Evil Clash

The forces of good and the forces of evil are working constantly in these Chinese secret societies. Good men arise and hold the tongs in moral rectitude and loving brotherhood for years sometimes, when jealousy and greed enter in and a condition such as exists now results.

Ko Low was a Big Tong as well as a Hip Song Tong man. He worked always with the element which strives to keep down vice and crime. For this reason he was disliked by the unruly element. His nephew became involved in a quarrel in a pool hall in Chinatown and shot at a fellow countryman. One month later Ko Low was murdered.

When Tom Yee was arrested charged with the murder of Ko Low it was whispered in Chinatown that unless he was acquitted of the charge two Hip Sing Tong men might not live another year. The third man marked for death is believed to be a witness who appeared against Tom Yee during the trial in Special Sessions.

Prefer Switzerland to Money-Grabbing America

Former Studebaker Official Says People Here Do Not Get Most Out of Life

South Bend, Ind., struck L. J. Ollier and his wife as being a pretty nice place in which to live until they paid a visit to Switzerland. This caused them to reach the decision to desert the United States to take up their residence abroad.

Mr. Ollier, who is a former vice-president of the Studebaker Corporation and one of the pioneers in the automobile industry in the United States, and his wife were passengers on the Lloyd Sabau liner "Conte Rosso," which docked last night. They returned firm in the conviction that the placidity of European life—particularly in Switzerland—is to be vastly preferred to the ceaseless hustle and bustle of life in America.

"We came to the realization," said Mrs. Ollier, "that people of this country do not actually live to get most out of life. There is so much money-grabbing and commercialism in the United States there is no time left to enjoy life."

The two daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Ollier were allowed to remain at Lausanne, Switzerland. They will be joined by their parents as soon as business affairs in this country can be adjusted.

Marie Dressler, the actress, another passenger, came home as enthusiastic in her praise of Italy as the Olliers were of Switzerland. She is going back to Europe, to remain indefinitely, she said.

Boy Saves Three From Fire 12-Year-Old's Pluck Rescues Family; Home Burns

The pluck and quick action of twelve-year-old Delmont Bogart, of Scarsdale, is the talk of that town to-day as a result of his prompt rescue of Arthur Jones, his wife and son, Leonard, nine months old, from a fire which destroyed their home.

Delmont, who lives across the street from the Jones home, was awakened by cries from the porch, and saw his young chum and the latter's parents huddled only a few feet from the rapidly spreading flames. He pulled on a sweater and his trousers and ran to get a ladder, with which he assisted the three to escape. Jones said that a fire was left burning in the boiler grate when the family retired. By estimated his loss at \$20,000.

Diamond Pin in Hair Not

Mrs. Charles P. Gale, of Carmel, telephoned Dr. Charles R. Johnson, of Peekskill, yesterday to say that she had found the \$400 diamond earring for which the physician and his family had been looking under the rug and behind the radiators of his home for twenty-four hours. She had found the ornament in her hair net, but she was as completely unable to account for its presence there as she was to explain why it had not fallen out while she was on her way back to Carmel after having the doctor treat her ear. The pin was returned at once.

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